

Message Text

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43

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SUBJECT: WEEKEND PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

1. SUMMARY. NEWSPAPERS OVER WEEKEND DIRECTED PRIMARY ATTENTION TO SOVIET PROPOSAL, ALLEGED KISSINGER COUNTER-PROPOSAL AND SPECULATION ON GREEK REACTION, CARAMANLIS' INTERVIEW WITH FRG TELEVISION, EMBASSY DENIAL OF U.S. AIRCRAFT INVOLVEMENT IN CYPRUS CRISIS, AND RETIREMENT OF BRIG. GENERAL IOANNIDES. CYPRUS AND U.S. POLICY CONTINUE TO DOMINATE EDITORIALS. AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE KUBISCH RECEIVED EDITORIAL BRICKBATS FROM COMMUNIST AVGHI.
END SUMMARY

2. HEADLINES OVER WEEKEND CONTINUED TO FOCUS ON SOVIET PROPOSAL AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO RESOLVE CYPRUS CRISIS. "MEMORANDUM CONTAINING RUSSIAN PLAN HANDED TO GOG YESTERDAY - IT STRENGTHENS GREECE'S POSITION" (ELEFTHEROS COSMOS), "NEW SOVIET PROPOSAL CENTER OF FERMENT - IT STRENGTHENS GREECE'S STAND (AVGHI), "CARAMANLIS - I WILL FOUND A PROGRESSIVE REPUBLIC -- FROM GERMAN TV INTERVIEW" (AKROPOLIS), "GREECE ACCEPTS SOVIET PROPOSAL" (VRADYNI), "KISSINGER'S COUNTER-MANOEUVRE TO RUSSIAN PLAN" (TO VIMA), "TURKISH PLANE INTERCEPTED OVER GREECE", (AKROPOLIS), AND UNCLASSIFIED

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"BRIGADIER GENERAL D. IOANNIDES WAS RELEASED FROM ACTIVE

MILITARY SERVICE YESTERDAY," (ELEFTHEROS COSMOS).

3. ALL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED U.S. EMBASSY RELEASE AUGUST 23 DENYING ALLEGATIONS THAT U.S. AIRCRAFT KEPT GREEK PHANTOMS AWAY FROM CYPRUS AND SPECULATION THAT U.S. SEEKING BASE ON TURKISH-HELD AREA OF CYPRUS. TA NEA ALSO REPORTED THAT U.S. PREVENTED GREEK RED CROSS FROM SENDING HOSPITAL SHIPS AND DOCTORS TO CYPRUS. SAME ITEM APPEARED IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ATHENS NEWS. VRADYNI AND OTHERS TOOK UMBRAGE AT "RUBBISH" COMMENT BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AS REISSUED BY EMBASSY. "WO WE ARE REPORTING "RUBBISH"" (VRADYNI). "US EMBASSY USING WORD 'RUBBISH' IN AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT.... ATTEMPTS TO CRITICIZE GREEK PRESS FOR PUBLISHING 'USUBSTANTIATED' RUMORS AND TO TEACH IT A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY..." (APOYEVMATINI). EMBASSY RELEASE CARRIED PERTINENT RESPONSES BY DEFENSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN AT PRESS BRIEFINGS AUGUST 22)

4. PM CARAMANLIS' INTERVIEW WITH FRG TV RECEIVED PROMINENT COVERAGE OVER WEEKEND AND PROMPTED GOG PRESS SPOKESMAN TO CLARIFY THAT PM'S REMARKS WERE MADE DURING FRIENDLY DISCUSSION WHICH DID NOT CONSTITUTE AN INTERVIEW OF POLITICAL NATURE. SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT CARAMANLIS HAS NOT YET GIVEN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW OF POLITICAL NATURE TO INTERNATIONAL PRESS OR TELEVISION. DURING EXCHANGE WITH BONN TV CORRESPONDENT CARAMANLIS OBSERVED THAT HE HAD FELT WHILE IN PARIS THAT ONE DAY GREECE WOULD REQUIRE HIS SERVICES. ANSWERING QUERY ON POLITICAL INTENTIONS, PREMIER SAID HIS WISH IS TO ESTABLISH STRONG AND PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRACY AND TO REACH HONEST AND REASONABLE SETTLEMENT OF CYPRUS QUESTION. PREMIER SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE SINCE HE ENJOYED SUPPORT OF ALL GREEKS. HE EMPHASIZED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD FULL CONTROL OF ARMY. CONCERNING HIS STAY AT THE GRANDE BRETAGNE HOTEL CARAMANLIS SAID HE REMAINS AT HOTEL BECAUSE HE HAS NO HOME HAVING BEEN IN EXILE TEN YEARS AND RETURNED TO GREECE WITHOUT LUGGAGE. FINDING A HOUSE WILL COME LATER.

5. PRESS ALSO REPORTED AHEPA CONVENTION ACTIVITIES INCLUDING DR. KISSINGER'S MEETING WITH AHEPA OFFICIALS, CARAMANLIS' MESSAGE TO AHEPA CONVENTION AND BOSTON SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE KUBISCH. LEFTIST AVGHI TOOK OCCASION IN EDITORIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMENT TO WRITE THAT AFTER WHAT HAS BEEN REVEALED ABOUT KUBISCH'S ACTIVITIES IN BRAZIL AND CHILE U.S. GOVERNMENT "SHOULD SHOW MORE RESPECT FOR AND DISCRETION TOWARD GREECE" AND SEND ANOTHER MAN TO THIS COUNTRY AS AMBASSADOR. PAPER ADDED THAT GREECE HAS NO USE FOR PERSON WHO SEEMS TO HAVE PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN OVERTHROW OF DEMOCRATIC REGIMES OF BRAZIL AND CHILE. TASCA

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